

Dec. 2 - 8, 2013
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Wetland conditions continue to improve. An early cold snap limited open water in some areas for the opener. Hunter success was mixed and early reports suggest a relatively slow opening weekend compared to years past. The mallard tracking report indicated a fairly large number of mallards to the north holding up in the central MS, MO and IL river systems. A strong cold front with substantial snow and ice moved through many of these areas around mid-week and will move through KY over the weekend. Subfreezing temperatures will impact the availability of open water and will probably push some birds south. Good hunting can still be found where ever open water occurs.

The following list below, represent the results of ground counts made by local KDFWR wildlife biologists. The locations and counts presented below probably represent a minimal number of what can be expected listed on the surveyed areas. Good hunting!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	61,200 ducks 49 CG geese 2,650 W-F geese 5,000 Snow geese	95% mallard, Remainder a mix of gadwall, ring-necked duck, wigeon, wood duck and black duck.	Ground snow/ice covered with msu's icing over.
Barren River Lake	3 ducks 23 CG	Gadwall	Peter's Creek MSU low. Ducks on back of coves. Good weather resulted in high boat traffic.
Birdsville Island	No count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count		
Duck Island	No count		
Boatwright WMA	47,600 ducks	80% mallard, 15% ring-necked and 5% a mix of gadwall, wigeon, pintail and black duck	Ground snow/ice covered with msu's icing over.
Doug Travis WMA	2,500 ducks	85% mallard, remainder a mix of dabblers and ring-necked ducks	All 3 wells running with MSU's filling. No ag. crops due to prolonged flooding.
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	372 ducks 6 coots 281 CG	90% mallard, remainder gadwall and divers.	Plenty of water, MSU's near capacity. Good stand of natural veg.
Sloughs WMA	6,000 ducks 3,500 WFG 150 CG 75 Swan	75% mallards remainder wigeon, gadwall, black duck.	Birds feeding heavily on winter wheat. Pumps on. Natural areas low. Snows geese not found when surveyed, but returned later.

Yellowbank WMA	400 ducks	82% mallards, 10% wood ducks and rest gadwall.	Most birds on refuge. Most msu's at maximum capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	175 ducks 45 CG	40% mallard, 30% gadwall, 15% black duck, remainder divers	Waters levels high on lakes. MSU at 70% capacity.
Herrington Lake	No Count		
Taylorsville Lake	0 ducks 0 Geese	No ducks or geese observed during this survey period.	Lake at winter pool. Extensive mudflats in back of creeks and embayments.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	0 ducks		Wetland units on Dix River WMA are partially flooded.
Green River WMA	22 ducks	All mallard	All MSU's and beaver ponds full. Lake above winter pool
Cave Run Lake	300+ 100	Gadwall, mallard, other unknown dabblers Canada geese	Shallow Flats area. Mallard numbers increasing